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EXTRA INFORMATION

Economic Stimulus Top Priority Projects Acton, Massachusetts

Board of Selectmen, March 5th, 2009

The Acton Board of Selectmen has reached consensus on our top priority projects for inclusion in the Federal Economic Stimulus project.

Acton Specific Projects

- **Road / Bridge Improvements.**
 - **\$140,000. Hayward and Main Intersection.** This project is completely shovel ready. It was scheduled to be completed last fall but the price came in higher than expected so the project was delayed. Improving this intersection improves the safety for all residents and improves the truck access for a significant business on Hayward Road.
 - **\$923,828. Bridge Improvements.** Acton owns ten bridges in town which were constructed approximately 50 years ago. These bridges need rehabilitation work. State funds for doing this type of work is always in short supply.
- **Sewer Expansion into the Flint / Tuttle neighborhood and W. Acton Village.** Acton's sewer system has the capacity for increased flow and there are two adjacent areas that have expressed strong interest in joining the sewer district.
 - **\$6,030,000.** The Flint / Tuttle neighborhood has serious flooding problems that make traditional septic systems impractical or impossible. The lack of sewers in this area is an environmental problem as sewer system failure causes flows to nearby rivers and streams. This project has been studied extensively and the primary difficulty has been funding.
 - **\$5,411,000.** Adding sewers to W. Acton Village will allow existing businesses to expand and provide the opportunity for new businesses to move in. Adding sewers here will provide jobs both through the construction process and through the expansion of business opportunities in the village.
- **Affordable Housing Project.**
 - **\$5,657,057.** Acton has completed a design for a project which would place 17 units of affordable family housing in the old Towne School. This project both adds affordable units to the towns inventory and preserves a historically significant building. This project has applied for tax credits through the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) for several years but has not yet received the funding. This project is shovel ready.
- **Railtrails.**
 - **\$9,000,000. Assabet River Rail Trail.** The portion of the Assabet River Rail Trail that runs through Acton and Maynard connects the S. Acton Commuter Rail Station with Maynard and points south. The design for this project has been completed and it is shovel ready.

- **\$9,000,000. Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.** The preliminary design for the portion of the Bruce Freeman Railtrail that goes through Acton is done. This project has reached the 10% design stage and the portion of the trail that runs through Acton, Carlisle and Westford is ready for design/ build.
- **New Senior Center.**
 - **\$7,200,000.** Acton's senior population is the fastest growing demographic group in town. The current senior center is unable to meet current demand and will certainly not be able to meet the growing need. Acton recently completed a study on this issue and concluded that we should build a new senior / community center on town owned land. This project needs money to complete the design and construct the building.
- **Replacing the heating systems in Acton's Fire Stations.**
 - **\$500,000.** The heating systems in Acton's South and West fire stations were installed in the 1960s. They should be replaced by more efficient models. This would decrease both ongoing costs and the level of carbon emissions.

In addition, there are regional transportation projects that significantly impact Acton. We would like to see the following projects receive funding:

Regional Projects:

- **Improving the Route 2 Concord Rotary.** This project is a daily safety hazard for Acton residents and those who commute into the Boston metropolitan area from further west. This project has been in the planning stages for years and is approaching the point where additional funds could allow construction to begin. Improving this transportation corridor would improve the business climate for all the adjacent communities.
- **Improving the MBTA Railroad tracks through Acton to Fitchburg and adding a regional parking solution west of Acton.** Improving the train system removes cars from overloaded highways, reduces overall carbon production by reducing car trips and improves air quality for all of us. Currently, Acton's train station is also used by commuters who live west of Acton and the parking lot is frequently full by 7 a.m. More people would use the commuter rail if more parking was available. Improving the overall MBTA infra-structure and adding parking west of Acton will alleviate both commuter traffic and the shortage of parking at the S. Acton Commuter Rail station.